

MARVEL LEGACY

CAGED!

168



**WALKER
SANNA
MRVA**

LUKE CAGE



While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

PREVIOUSLY: Returning home after his trip to New Orleans, Luke Cage stopped for lunch in a strange town with a dark secret. Before Luke could figure out what was going on, he was gassed by local law enforcement and thrown in prison. But this was no normal prison...

The prison, and the town itself, was being held under the hypnotic power of the Ringmaster. Having captured Luke Cage, Ringmaster wiped his memories and threw him into a cell. But memories or no, Luke's still Luke, and when fellow mind-wiped prisoner Gonzo Acosta was threatened, Luke intervened. For his heroics, Luke and Gonzo were sent to work in the mysterious and deadly mine...

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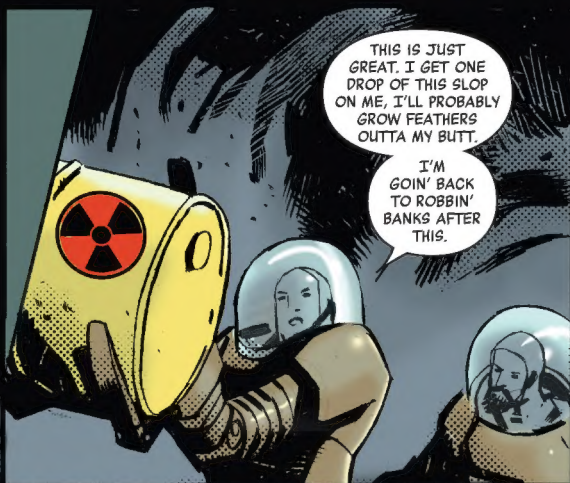
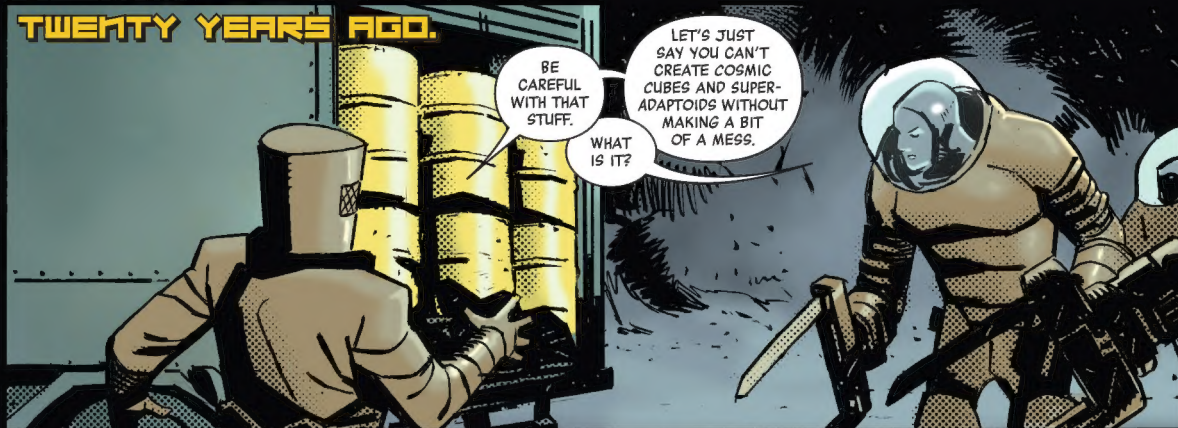
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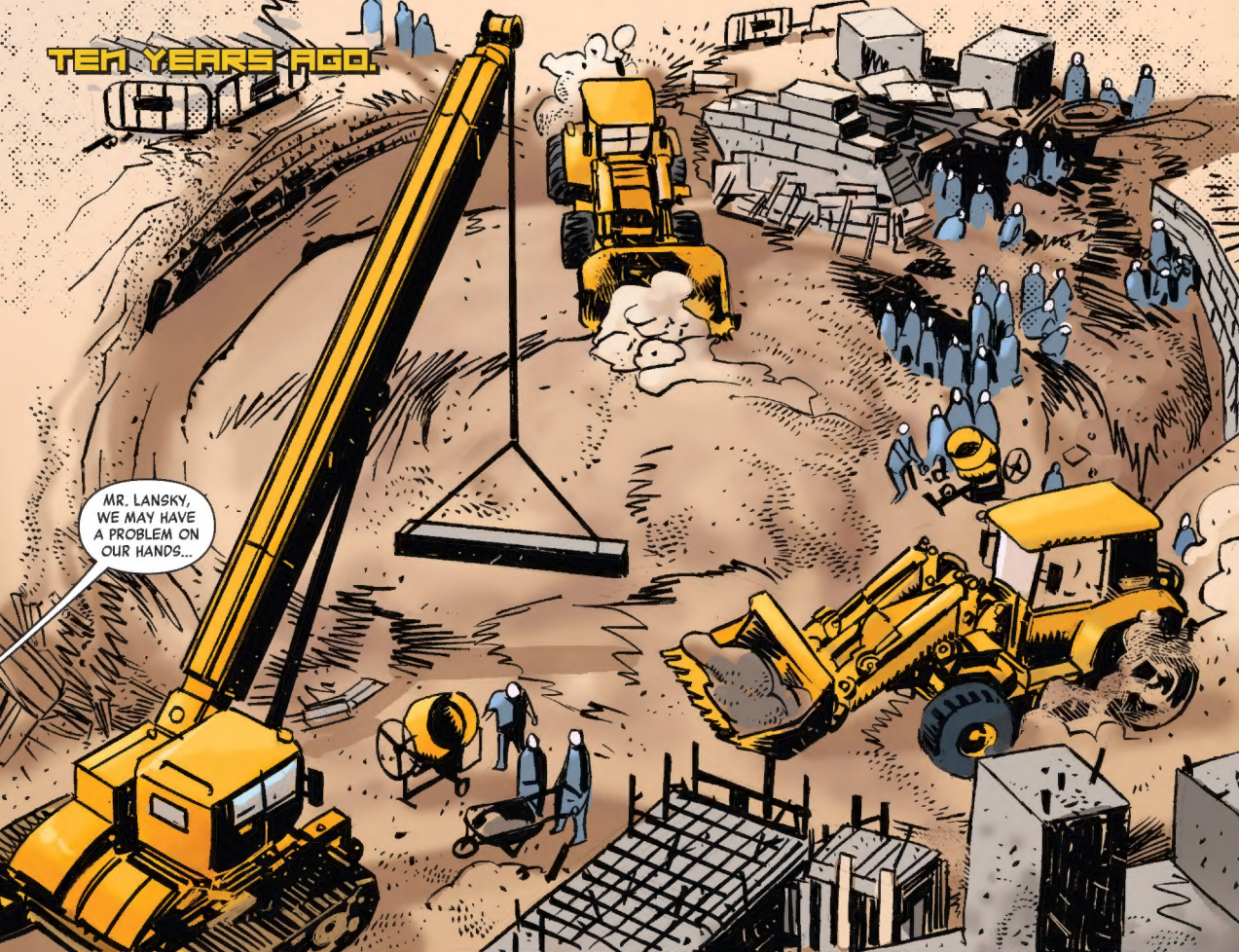
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MIKE
DEODATO
JR.

TWENTY YEARS AGO.



TEN YEARS AGO.



MR. LANSKY,
WE MAY HAVE
A PROBLEM ON
OUR HANDS...



...THE TEST RESULTS ARE BACK
FROM THOSE SOIL SAMPLES
TAKEN FROM THE
CONSTRUCTION SITE.

WHAT ABOUT
THEM?

THE GROUND IS
CONTAMINATED
WITH THINGS WE
CAN'T EVEN
IDENTIFY.

OF
COURSE
IT IS.



LOOKS LIKE
I'LL HAVE TO CALL
IN THAT FAVOR WITH
THE GOVERNOR. GOOD
THING WE'RE BUILDING
A PRISON AND NOT
A CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL.

I MEAN,
LET'S BE
HONEST...



"...WHO CARES IF SOME
CONVICTS GET EXPOSED
TO A BIT OF TOXIC
WASTE?"

EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS A MISTAKE--THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THIS DUMP.

I APPLIED TO BE IN THE THUNDERBOLTS. THIS IS INEXCUSABLE.

YOU CAN TALK TO THE WARDEN ABOUT THAT.

I AM MAYNARD TIBOLDT--THE RINGMASTER, A MASTER OF HYPNOTISM. I'M THE FOUNDER OF THE CIRCUS OF CRIME.

COOL.

THAT MAKES YOU ALMOST FAMOUS. CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MRS. ACOSTA.

LOUSY SCREW. WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, MOCKING ME LIKE THAT? WHAT A PAIN IN MY...

UGH...MY... HEAD...

I THINK... SOMETHING... IS WRONG.

now.

I GET IT, MAN,
SHOVELING DIRT
SUCKS, BUT AIN'T NO
REASON FOR YOU TO
BE FREAKING OUT
LIKE THIS.

NO,
YOU **DON'T**
GET IT.
EVERY FEW
WEEKS SOME NEW
PRISONERS GET SENT
DOWN HERE, AND AFTER
A WHILE THEY JUST
STOP COMING
BACK.

LESS
TALK.

MORE
WORK.

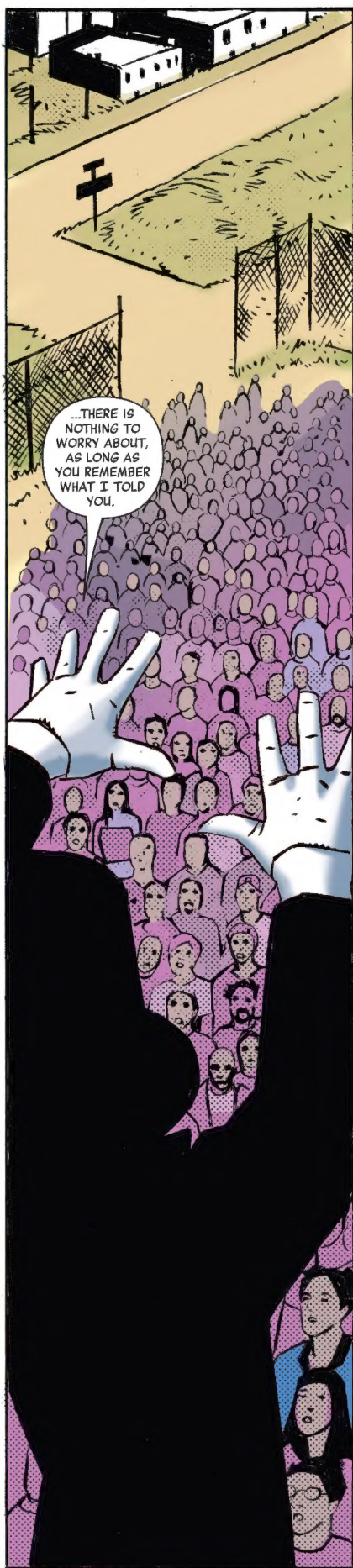






LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF MY VOICE.

REMEMBER WHAT I'VE TOLD ALL OF YOU...



...THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU.



YOU WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF--NO WORRIES OR NEEDS--AS LONG AS YOU DO AS I TELL YOU.



NOW...



...GO BACK TO
YOUR HOMES AND
YOUR JOBS AND YOUR
LIVES, AND NEVER
FORGET WHO IS
IN CONTROL.



UNGH...

I FEEL
LIKE CRAP.



I DON'T KNOW
HOW GUYS LIKE MAGNETO
AND DR. DOOM DO IT--
TRYING TO TAKE OVER
THE WORLD.

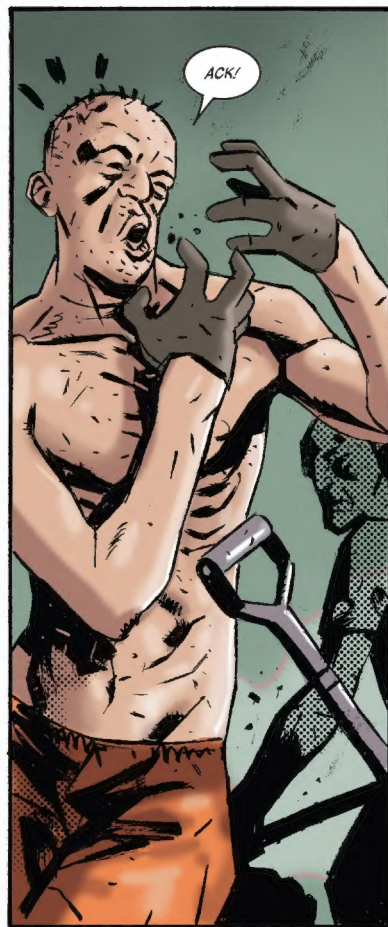


MAINTAINING
CONTROL OF A
PRISON AND ONE
JERKWATER TOWN
IS KICKING
MY ASS.

BUT HEY,
IT'S JUST LIKE
JANET JACKSON
SAID...



...IT'S
ALL ABOUT
CONTROL.
AND IN
THIS LITTLE
CORNER OF THE
WORLD, I'VE GOT
**ALL OF
IT.**











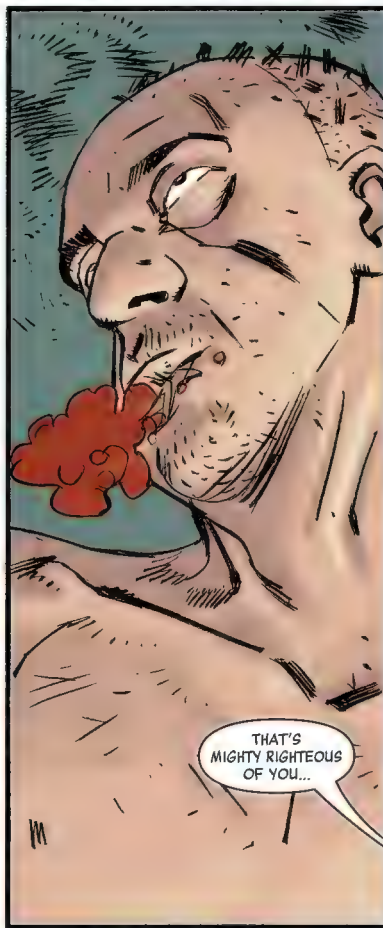
BEAUTIFUL.



I DON'T
NEED TO TELL
YOU...THIS WILL
STING.



A LOT.



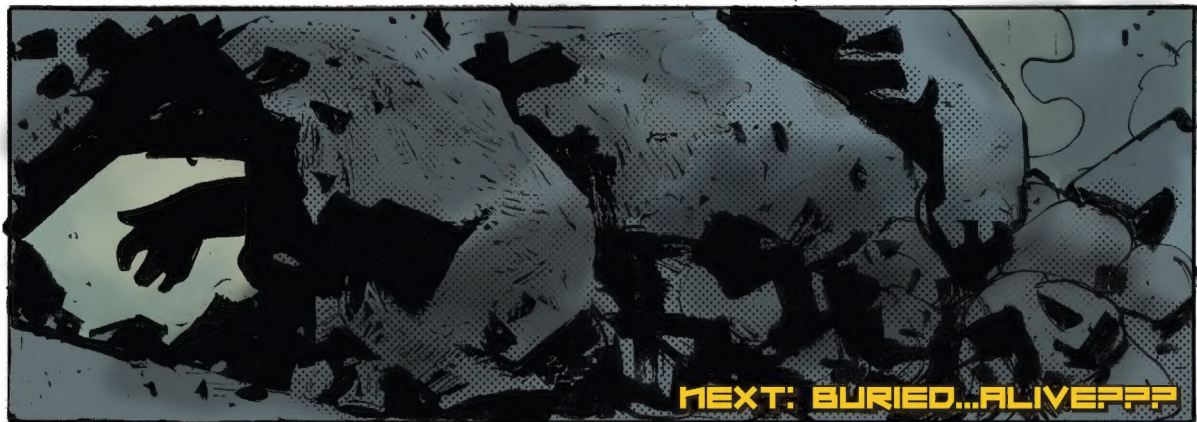














**YOU KNOW THE DRILL!
SEE YOU NEXT MONTH FOR
LUKE CAGE #169!**

PLEASE SEND ALL PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE TO
MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND REMEMBER TO MARK IT "OK TO PRINT"!